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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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DP/PROJECTS/7246

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF COLOMBIA

IPF:(1992-96) $ 11 700 000

(COL/89/003) - Strengthening the Central Housing Unit

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	11 March 1992
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	HABITAT
Government implementing agency:	National Planning Department (DNP)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 380 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 651 100
Total UNDP budget:	$1 031 100

Project background

The accelerated process of urbanization in Colombia, that resulted from a profound political, economic and social transformation in the country, has led to a substantial housing deficit both in terms of quantity and quality. At the end of 1989, nearly 800,000 families did not have access to housing and approximately two million housing units needed substantial improvements. Furthermore, a number of institutions are operating in this sector such as the National Savings Fund (FNA), the National Institute for Social Housing and Popular Housing (INURBE), the Savings Corporation (CORPAVI), and the National Training Service (SENA) among others. Weak managerial and technical capacity in these institutions and inadequate co-ordination arrangements between them, has not allowed the implementation of effective government programmes to resolve the housing deficit.

The Government of Colombia requested UNDP assistance to implement these recommendations; and in March 1990 the present project was signed with the following immediate objectives: (1) provide assistance to consolidate the complex institutional arrangements of the urban development and housing sector and support the co-ordination and implementation of technical co-operation to this sector; (2) strengthen the managerial and operational capacity of the Urban Development and Social Housing Directorate of the Ministry of Economic Development (MDE) and the Urban Development Unit of the National Planing Department (DNP) to co-ordinate, design and implement development policies and strategies through a Central Housing Unit (UNCEVI); (3) promote the implementation of successful low-cost housing technologies at national and regional levels; and (4) promote the exchange of housing and urban development technologies among Latin American and Caribbean countries based on the Colombian experience.

[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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After two years of activities, the project has achieved important results, among which it is worth indicating the following: (1) improved management capacity of central co-ordinating institutions, MDE and DNP, in the housing and urban development sector; (2) a planning and monitoring system for the sector designed and implemented; (3) a consultancy and staff training system implemented for the MDE and DNP; (4) introduction of effective management instruments in MED and DNP and improvement of their technical and administrative capacity; and (5) support to the participation of Colombia in international meetings and seminars and assistance to other countries in the region in assessment and design of housing and urban development programmes.

At the end of 1991, the Government requested UNDP assistance to extend the activities of the present project until the end of the year in order to complete the consolidation of the co-ordination arrangements and building the technical capacity of the institutions participating in this sector.

Description of project

The present project will contribute to the decentralization and modernization of the State which is the third concentration area of the Fifth Country Programme. The immediate objectives of the project remain the same.

Project activities will include: (a) incorporating assistance at the central government level for the implementation of the Urban Reform Plan, a new urban legislation, an inventory of risk areas and of government land resources, and consolidation of a financial information system; (b) conducting a study of the impact of the national social housing policy on municipalities and housing institutions at the regional and municipal levels; (c) training staff on methods to assess the demand for housing; and (d) transferring the Colombian experience to other countries in the Latin American and Caribbean Region in co-operation with regional initiatives.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 706 work-months of international and national professional personnel in management, finance and administration (199 work-months); housing construction (108 work-months); demand analysis (38 work-months); information systems (56 work-months); social and housing policy (59 work-months); urban development (56 work-months); housing technology (89 work-months); and miscellaneous consultancies (111 work-months); subcontracts in planning; on-the-job training programmes and seminars for approximately 500 participants; equipment for computerized information systems; and reporting and sundry costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	812 000
Subcontract	10 000
Training	25 000
Equipment	131 700
Miscellaneous	52 400
Total	1 031 100

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